

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 03883 020222Z

64/41

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CU-02 HEW-04 EB-07 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /099 W

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R 311217Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5363

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

RUTAOHXAMEMBASSY LUSAKA 2886

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT THROUGHOUT)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WA, PINT, PDEIP

SUBJECT: PROSPECTS FOR NAMIBIA

REFS: PRETORIA 3594, PRETORIA 3702, PRETORIA 3798

1. SUMMARY: ENDORSEMENT OF TURNHALLE DISCUSSIONS BY NATIONAL
PARTY OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA CONGRESS IS BEING INTERPRETED AS
MAJOR BREAD WITH SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES FOLLOWED IN
SOUTH AFRICA. SAG HAS NOT TAKEN OFFICIAL POSITION AS YET,
BUT IT EXPECTED TO DO SO SOME TIME PRIOR TO UN DEBATE TURN-
HALLE CONFERENCE E BEGINS MEETINGS TOMORROW WHICH COULD FLESH
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PAGE 02 PRETOR 03883 020222Z

OUT IDEAS ON INTERIM GOVERNMENTN DISCUSSIONS WITH SWAPO, AND

TIMETABLE FOR FURTHER MOVES TOWARD FULL INDEPENDENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA HAVE RECEIVED UNUSUALLY EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN LOCAL PRESS FOR PAST WEEK, LARGELY BECAUSE EVENTS THERE ARE INTERPRETED AS LEADING WHITES IN SWA TOWARD POWER SHARING WITH BLACKS IN A SINGLE INDEPENDENT STATE. THIS BREAK WITH NATIONAL PARTY POLICY, HAILED IN ENGLISH PRESS AND ACKNOWLEDGED IN AFRIKANER PRESS AS WELL, IS ASSUMED TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITH THE CONCURRENCE, IF NOT AT THE DIRECTION, OF PRIME MINISTER VORSTER. THE NP CONGRESS UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED A MOTION DECLARING SUPPORT FOR TURNHALLE PROGRESS WHICH INCLUDED RETENTION OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF SWA AND ESTABLISHMENT OF MULTIRACIAL INTERIM GOVERNMENT. CONGRESS EXPRESSED WHITE CONCERNS IN OTHER MOTIONS CALLING FOR SPELLING OUT IN WRITTEN CONSTITUTION THE GUARANTEES FOR THE SECURITY OF EVERYONE'S PROPERTY, AND THE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO PRESERVE THE IDENTITY OF POPULATION GROUPS AND PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF MINORITIES. PRESS COMMENTATORS AND OTHER INFORMED OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT DESPITE THE RESERVATIONS AND FEARS OF MANY IN THE WHITE COMMUNITY, AND THE OUTRIGHT OPPOSITION OF SOME, THE GROUNDWORK HAS BEEN LAID FOR MEANINGFUL MOVEMENT TOWARD A MULTIRACIAL INTERIM GOVERNMENT AND EVENTUAL BLACK MAJORITY RULE.

3. SAG HAS NOT YET TAKEN AN OFFICIAL POSITION, EITHER ON THE TURNHALLE MEMORANDUM WHICH SAG DISTRIBUTED PN NEW YORK (PRETORIA 3702) OR ON THE RESULTS OF THE NP CONGRESS. WRITING IN SUNDAY TIMES AUG 29, FLEUR DE VILLIERS PREDICTED SAG WOULD MAKE MAJOR EFFORT TO STAVE OFF POSSIBLE UNSC ACTION BY "DELIVERING NOTE TO SC" STATING (A) NATIONAL ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN SWA BEFORE INDEPENDENCE, AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS WILL BE PERMITTED, (B) SAG IS PREPARED, PROBABLY THROUGH TURNHALLE CONFERENCE, TO NEGOTIATE WITH SWAPO EXTERNAL WING, (C) SAG WILL FACILITATE TRANSFER OF POWER TO INTERIM SWA GOVERNMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND (D) SAG ACCEPTS DECEMBER 31, 1978, DEADLINE FOR SWA INDEPENDENCE. CORRESPONDENT SAYS HERERO CHIEF KAPUWO, "TIPPED TO BECOME SWA FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT", ENVISAGES GRADUAL TURNOVER OF POWERS TO INTERIM GOVERNMENT, BUT HAS LIST OF IMMEDIATE DEMANDS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PRETOR 03883 020222Z

INCLUDING TRAINING AND ENTRY INTO PUBLIC SERVICE OF BLACKS UNDER INTERIM GOVERNMENT, IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK, INTEGRATION OF ALL PUBLIC FACILITIES, AND MULTIRACIAL UNIVERSITY. PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT SWAPO PUBLICITY SECRETARY DANIEL TJONGARORO HAS SAID SWAPO WOULD PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS HELD IN SWA "UNDER AN ACCEPTABLE CONSTITUTION," AND THAT SWAPO PRESIDENT SAM NUJOEA HAS MENTIONED A WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN A CONSTITUTIONAL

CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF SWA IF IT IS HELD UNDER UN AUSPICES. THIS IS SEEN AS AN IMPORTANT SHIFT FROM HIS PREVIOUS POSITION CALLING ONLY FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICA LEADING TO SAG SURRENDER OF THE TERRITORY TO SWAPO CONTROL.

4. THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED TO RESUME MEETINGS IN WINDHOEK ON AUG 31, MUDGE AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS HAVE INDICATED THAT THE DETAILS OF AN INTERIM MULTI-RACIAL GOVERNMENT WOULD BE WORKED OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH A VIEW TO FRAMING PROPOSALS TO SAG THAT WOULD RESULT IN PARLIAMENTARY ACTION EARLY IN 1977 TRANSFERRING SOME POWERS TO INTERIM GOVERNMENT (PRETORIA 3594). SPECULATION ON DATE OF CREATION OF INTERIM GOVERNMENT RANGES FROM MARCH 1977 AT EARLIEST TO SOME TIME BEFORE END OF 1977. PRESS REPORTS AUGUST 29 MENTION THAT DELEGATION FROM SWA MAY GO TO LONDON DURING SEPTEMBER TO SEEK SUPPORT FOR TURNHALLE COURSE OF ACTION, AND POSSIBLE TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH SWAPO REPRESENTATIVES (PRETORIA 3594).

5. COMMENT: SWA NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS QUALIFIED ENDORSEMENT OF PROGRESS IN TURNHALLE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE MARKS LIMITED YET SIGNIFICANT ADVANCE IN NATIONALIST THINKING IN WINDHOEK AS WELL AS PRETORIA. VORSTER APPEARS TO HAVE INTERVENED BOTH TO AVOID POSSIBLE COLLAPSE OF THE TURNHALLE TALKS BECAUSE OF CONSERVATIVE INTRANSIGENCE, AND TO PRESERVE PARTY UNITY. SAG AS SUCH HAS STILL NOT TAKEN A POSITION PUBLICLY ON AUGUST 18 STATEMENT AND ACTION OF SWA-NP CONGRESS, BUT VORSTER MAY BE BIDDING HIS TIME TO SEE WHAT EMERGES FROM HIS SECOND ROUND OF TALKS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AND TO TOUCH BASE WITH NP LEADERSHIP AT SEPT 10 SPECIAL NP CONFERENCE (PRETORIA 3883) BEFORE REVEALING PUBLICLY THE EXTENT OF COMMITMENTS HE IS WILLING TO UNDERTAKE REGARDING SWA.

BOWDLER

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PAGE 04 PRETOR 03883 020222Z

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